

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets, the ballistic wall comprising:

a first metal plate having an edge, a plurality of holes formed adjacent the edge, and a plurality of slots connecting the holes to the edge;

a second metal plate having an edge and a plurality of holes formed adjacent the edge;

~~—first and second metal plates for decelerating bullets, the first and second metal plates having keyholes formed therein along an edge thereof so that the keyholes in the first metal plate are placed adjacent the keyholes in the second metal plate by placing the metal plates adjacent one another;~~

a facing strip having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the keyholes plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate and the plurality of holes in the second metal plate; and

a first plurality of bolts and nuts for attaching the facing strip to the metal plates by extending through the holes in the facing strip and the keyholes in the plates plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate; and

a second plurality of bolts and nuts for attaching the facing strip to the metal plates by extending through the holes in the facing strip and the and the plurality of holes formed in the second metal plate.

2. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, further comprising a backing strip disposed on a side of the metal plates opposite the facing strip and having a plurality of holes formed therein in alignment with the ~~keyholes~~ plurality of holes formed in the first metal plate and the plurality of holes form in the second metal plate.

3. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, further comprising a bullet containment frame attached to the facing strip.

4. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 3, further comprising a mounting bracket for connecting the bullet containment frame to the facing strip.

5. (Currently Amended) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the bolt extends through the mounting bracket, but not ~~through~~ into the bullet containment frame.

6. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel, and wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a support post which fits within the channel.

7. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 6, wherein the support post is attached to the mounting bracket by screws.

8. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket forms a generally L-shaped recess for receiving one or more support posts.

9. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 8, wherein the one or more support posts comprises a two-by-four and a two-by-two.

10. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 9, wherein the two-by-four and the two-by-two are fastened to one another by a fastener.

11. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 4, wherein the mounting bracket is formed integrally with the facing strip so that the facing strip has at least one arm extending outwardly from the plates to facilitate attachment of the bullet containment frame.

12. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall for decelerating bullets comprising:
two pieces of plate steel;
a facing strip configured to clamp against the two pieces of plate steel and hold the two pieces of plate steel together;
a mounting bracket for holding a bullet containment frame to the facing strip;
a plurality of bolts and nuts, the bolts extending through the mounting bracket and the facing strip; and
a bullet containment frame attached to the mounting bracket, ~~the bullet containment frame being disposed so that the attachment of the bullet containment frame to the mounting~~

~~bracket is independent of at least some of the bolts used to clamp the facing strip to the at least two pieces of steel plate , wherein at least some of the plurality of bolts do not hold the bullet containment frame to the mounting bracket.~~

13. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a wood post, and wherein the wood post is fastened to the mounting bracket.

14. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket is made of metal, and wherein the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket by a fastener which has been driven through the mounting bracket.

15. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the mounting bracket has holes formed therein for receiving a fastener to fasten the mounting bracket to the wood post.

16. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 13, wherein the post is unmilled.

17. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket comprises at least one arm extending away from the two pieces of plate steel.

18. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally U-shaped cross-section.

19. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 12, wherein the mounting bracket has a generally L-shaped recess for receiving a support post of the bullet containment frame.

20. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 19, wherein the facing strip has an L-shaped cross-section.

21. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall comprising;

- a first piece of steel plate having an edge;
- a second piece of steel plate having an edge disposed adjacent the edge of the first piece of steel plate;
- a facing strip disposed so as to cover one side of said edges of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate;
- a backing strip disposed so as to cover said edges of the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate on a side opposite the facing strip;
- at least one arm connected to or formed integrally with at least one of the facing strip and backing strip and extending away from the first piece of steel plate and the second piece of steel plate; and

a bullet containment frame attached to the at least one arm by a plurality of fasteners, the bullet containment frame comprising sheets of material spaced apart from the first piece of plate steel and second piece of plate steel.

22. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein the at least one arm is a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip.

23. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip has a generally U-shaped cross-section so as to form a support structure, the generally U-shaped cross-section defining a channel.

24. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 23, wherein the bullet containment frame comprises a post which is at least partially disposed in the channel.

25. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, wherein the post is a standard, unmilled post.

26. (Withdrawn) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 24, further comprising fasteners for holding the post at least partially in the channel and wherein a plurality of holes are formed in the at least one of the facing strip and the backing strip for receiving the fasteners.

27. -35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall having a pair of adjacent metal plates having adjacent edges and a facing strip covering the adjacent edges and attached to the metal plates by an attachment mechanism, wherein the improvement comprises:

a wood post attached to the facing strip such that the wood post ~~completely~~ covers the attachment mechanism; and

wherein the wood post is attached to the attachment mechanism by at least one intervening structure.

37. (Original) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 36, wherein the attachment mechanism is a plurality of bolts and wherein all of the bolts are disposed behind the wood post to thereby protect the bolts from being impacted by bullets.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The modular ballistic wall according to claim 37,~~
A modular ballistic wall having a pair of adjacent metal plates having adjacent edges and a facing strip covering the adjacent edges and attached to the metal plates by an attachment mechanism, wherein the improvement comprises:

a wood post attached to the facing strip such that the wood post completely covers the attachment mechanism;

wherein the attachment mechanism is a plurality of bolts and wherein all of the bolts are disposed behind the wood post to thereby protect the bolts from being impacted by bullets; and

wherein the bolts hold a mounting bracket to the facing strip and the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket.

39. (Currently Amended) A modular ballistic wall having metal plates joined together by a facing strip and covered by a bullet containment frame, characterized in that bolts attaching the facing strip to the metal plates do not extend ~~through~~ into the bullet containment frame.

40.-45. (Canceled)

45. (Withdrawn) A modular wall for containing bullets, the wall comprising:
a plurality of pieces of metal plate disposed end to end so as to form a seam;
a facing strip attached to the plurality of pieces of metal plate, the facing strip having an arm portion extending away from the pieces of metal plate.

46. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 45, wherein the facing strip further comprises a mounting portion extending from the arm being configured for attachment to a bullet containment member.

47. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 46, further comprising a plurality of sheets of material attached to the mounting portion.

48. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 47, wherein the sheets of material are wood.

49. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 46, wherein the facing strip has a generally I-shaped cross-section.

50. (Original) A modular wall for stopping bullets, the wall comprising:
a plurality of steel plates attached together by a facing strip;
a mounting bracket attached to the facing strip; and
a plurality of sheets of material for inhibiting ricocheting of bullets impacting the plates;
wherein the mounting bracket spaces the plurality of sheets from the facing strip.

51. (Withdrawn) The modular wall of claim 50, wherein a bullet deceleration medium is disposed between a portion of the mounting bracket and the facing strip.

52. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises gravel.

53. (Withdrawn) The modular wall according to claim 51, wherein the bullet deceleration medium comprises chopped rubber.

54. (New) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 1, wherein the second plate place comprises a plurality of slots connecting the holes to the edge.

55. (New) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 38, wherein the wood post is attached to the mounting bracket by screws.

56. (New) The modular ballistic wall according to claim 38, wherein the mounting bracket forms a generally L-shaped recess for receiving at least one wood post.